

FACT SHEET

**Tri-State Mining District
Cherokee County
Galena, Kansas**



August 1998

GALENA PROJECT WINDING DOWN

BACKGROUND

The Tri-State Mining District is an inactive lead and zinc mining area that includes the Cherokee County Superfund site in Kansas. The Cherokee County site is listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of the most serious hazardous waste sites in the country. These sites have been identified for remedial action under the Superfund program.

EPA signed a document called the Record of Decision (ROD) for the site in July 1996. The ROD formally selected a cleanup plan to address the residential yard soils in the Galena area.

The ROD called for the excavation and disposal of mining impacted soils. A health education program and institutional controls were also put in place or planned.

SITE UPDATE

EPA has completed more than 500 residential yard cleanups and tested about 800 properties. This work started in the spring 1997 and will likely end later this year. The cleanup activities consist of excavating and removing contaminated soil, replacing the soil with clean soil, and placing sod or grass seed on the clean soil backfill. EPA and health officials will continue to coordinate the cleanup effort.

Availability Session Announcement

**EPA will hold an informal meeting,
Wednesday, August 12, 1998,
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.,
Galena City Hall,
315 W. 7th,
Galena, Kansas.**

Staff members involved at the site will be available to answer your questions, one-on-one. You can attend the meeting at your convenience between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

There's still time to have your property sampled. You can make arrangements to have this done at the meeting. The sampling and analysis are free.

For more information, please call:

Hattie Thomas
Office of External Programs
Toll-free 1-800-223-0425

We anticipate completing sampling and remediation activities this fall. Our sampling efforts will continue to focus on residential areas located around the former lead and zinc smelter. We will also focus on the residential milling/mining wastes areas in Galena.

NEXT STEPS

EPA has attempted to notify and sample all residences in the Galena area. There is still the possibility that some property owners may not have been contacted. EPA wants to be sure that all property owners in the Galena area have been given the opportunity for testing and cleanup, if necessary.

The active cleanup of contaminated residential yards is nearing completion. Interested residents, community leaders, local officials and EPA are beginning to develop institutional controls as described in the ROD. These controls are needed to protect human health from exposure to contaminated soils at new housing developments in areas where mining waste contamination remains on the Site.

The agency believes that the local government, with state and EPA oversight, is the appropriate entity to assure that future residential development will be protective of human health and the environment.

EPA will hold an informal availability session on Wednesday, August 12, 1998 at the Galena City Hall. The purpose of the session is to allow those residents who have not been contacted an opportunity to sign up for future testing and possible cleanups. All testing, analysis and cleanups are free. Community members are also encouraged to voice their concerns and thoughts on future land use controls for undeveloped areas with mining waste contamination that may be developed into residential areas in the future.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about this fact sheet, the availability session or the site, please contact:

Hattie Thomas
Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 7
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
1-913-551-7003
Toll-free 1-800-223-0425

If you are interested in having your property sampled, please contact:

Bill Southard
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
101 North Galena Avenue
Galena, Kansas 66739
316-783-5502